

SWVAMRC Point

Fall 2014

Southwest

VIRGINIA

10th Anniversary
2004 - 2014



The 2014 Ebola epidemic has proven to be the largest outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in history, with multiple countries affected. NO known cases of EVD have been detected or diagnosed within the Commonwealth. VDH continues to work collaboratively with local, state and federal agencies to ensure an adequate and comprehensive response to the Ebola threat to prevent further spread and protect the health of Virginians.

Information about Ebola continues to be released and updated on an daily and sometimes hourly basis. Below find several links on the VDH website www.vdh.virginia.gov, which provide current and relevant information on Ebola response:

- ⇒ How Infectious is Ebola? <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/ebola/HealthCare.htm>
- ⇒ Ebola – Frequently Asked Questions or Call the Ebola Hotline: 1-877-ASK-VDH3 (1-877-275-8343) <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/ebola/>
- ⇒ Ebola information for Virginia healthcare providers <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/ebola/HealthCare.htm>
- ⇒ CDC Ebola information <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

As the situation across the Commonwealth warrants, especially in southwestern Virginia, Medical Reserve Corps members will be notified of needs, concerns, training opportunities and deployment procedures.

On July 1, 2014, the Virginia Volunteer Health System (www.vamrc.org/vvhs) underwent significant changes to the website, including the ability to now send text alerts to Virginia Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. As preparations are underway to respond to any number of public health situations, it is extremely important for all volunteer profiles to be as current as possible.

As learned in membership orientation, the primary responsibility of any Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps member is to assist during public health crises, when possible, and to keep contact information current and up-to-date.

With Ebola/Seasonal Flu/MERS/Enterovirus concerns, **NOW** is the best time update your Password in the new system, provide permission to send you text alerts and make changes to your contact information.

Kristina Morris is available anytime to provide original User Name information, help with Password reset and answer questions. This is so important right now. Please help to ensure the entire Unit is ready by doing your part.

Click Image to
Download Flyer

Are You Ready to Help?

1.

www.vamrc.org/vvhs

2. Update Password

3. - Check

- ✓ - Phone number
- ✓ - Mailing Address
- ✓ - Email Address
- ✓ - Employment Info
- ✓ - Accept Texts Alerts

4. HELP

- If you need User Name
- If you need new ID badge
- If you need help navigating VVHS

Call 276-274-0555

How will you help if the Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps can't reach you?
If you haven't updated your volunteer profile since July 1st, the time is NOW!!!

Contact person: Kristina Morris—276-274-0555
swva.mrc@vdh.virginia.gov

Winter Preparedness



The weather this past weekend was an unexpected reminder of the pending winter season.

While the official start to winter is December 21; it seems Mother Nature wanted to remind everyone of what may be in store. Preparedness for any type of weather is a year-round activity.

Make sure that you have supplies at home in case of power outages; plenty of rock salt and snow shovels for cleaning walkways; safety supplies in your vehicle in case you get stuck out in inclement weather; and remember to Text First/Talk Second when checking on the safety of family and friends.

With the time change on Sunday morning, citizens were reminded to also check batteries in smoke detectors. Please make sure all smoke detectors are in working order and if you don't have smoke detectors make that a priority.



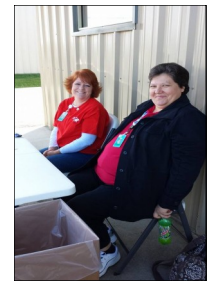
Kristina K. Morris, Volunteer Coordinator

Kristina.morris@vdh.virginia.gov or 276-274-0555

DEA Drug Take Back

was once again a huge success. In Southwest Virginia, 42 volunteers staffed 13 different drop zones to gather old, unused prescription medicines and over-the-counter drugs. The report from the Virginia State Police tallied the poundage for the entire region as 1,541.3 pounds. Of that total, over 971 pounds was collected at the locations staffed by Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps members. WOW!!!! Great job by everyone, especially Washington County Captain Janie McGlocklin who did a great job as the regional coordinator due to the absence of

Kristina Morris.



REVIVE! OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION FOR VIRGINIA

TRAINING EVENT

ARE YOU...

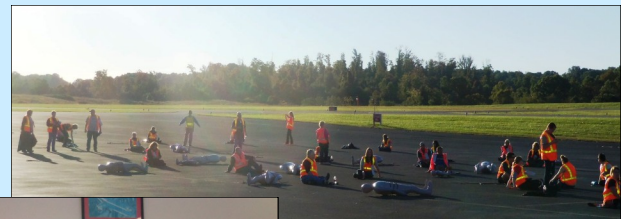
CONCERNED about a friend or family member that is abusing heroin or prescription painkillers?

INTERESTED in learning about how to administer naloxone to save the life of a person experiencing an opioid overdose emergency?

Then you should consider attending a **REVIVE!** Training Event!

For SWVA MRC members interested in becoming REVIVE! Trainers, there will be four Train-the-Trainer sessions November 7—10. Please click on this link to register for a session: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/REVIVEFailTOTs>

Sky's The Limit— On Wednesday, October 8th at the Virginia Highlands Airport in Abingdon, 34 Southwest Virginia MRC members, nursing students from Virginia Highlands Community College and Bristol Lifesaving Crew members participated in a full-scale exercise. As actors, the volunteers got to see up-close and personal how exercises are designed and implemented and how the First Response and Emergency Community work together to plan for any type of emergency, including a plane crash! Everyone had a great time, learned a lot and hopefully, some of the nursing students will now consider becoming members of our Unit!



HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS!!!!

On October 28th, it was so hard to believe that 10 years ago on October 28, 2004, the first group of new volunteers met in Tazewell Co. for orientation. Since that evening, hundreds of orientations have been completed and over 1,200 individuals at some point were approved as active members. This unit has responded to local emergencies (Carroll Co. Puppy Mill, Washington Co. tornados, I-77 pileup on Easter Weekend), national emergencies (Hurricanes Katrina & Rita), public health emergencies (H1N1 Influenza), conducted hundreds of trainings, participated in exercises and have been the region's most visible organization with prescription drug disposal. So you may ask — what does the next 10 years hold??? We are working on that now — so just wait and see. Thanks for being the best volunteers in Virginia! SWVA MRC ROCKS!!!!